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cinnati, Ohio,¹ by Mr. Frank W. Langdon. This carefully prepared list numbers two hundred and seventy-nine species, nearly all of which are known to have been taken at the locality indicated. The few included on the basis of their general known range are significantly distinguished as being thus included, and embrace only such species as are quite likely to be met with at the locality in question.

A paper on The Summer Birds of the Adirondacks,² by Roosevelt and Minot, forming a list of ninety-seven species, with short notes respecting their relative abundance, gives us our first formal list of the birds of this interesting region.

Among other recent papers relating to American ornithology may be mentioned a paper by Mr. Robert Ridgway, on The Birds of Guadalupe Island, discussed with reference to the present Genesis of Species.³ This paper deals especially, as its title indicates, with the origin of the few insular forms which make up the avian fauna of this small island, and discusses the relationship of these forms to the birds of the adjacent main-land. The species thus far well known from this island, situated about two hundred and twenty miles southwest from San Diego, number only eight, and their affinities are almost entirely, as would be expected, with those of Western North America. Yet they are so far differentiated from them that they are recognized by Mr. Ridgway as specifically distinct. They all differ somewhat similarly from their nearest main-land allies in three principal features, namely, in (1) "increased size of the bill and feet, (2) shorter wings and tail, and (3) darker colors." These facts point emphatically to the directly modifying influence of the peculiar conditions of environment to which they are subjected, and, taken with other now well-known facts, lead to the conclusion that the present differentiation of species and subspecies is mainly the result of the immediate action of climatic and other surrounding conditions.

In a paper entitled Corrections of Nomenclature in the Genus *Siurus*,⁴ Dr. Coues, after a few preliminary remarks respecting the general subject of nomenclature, shows clearly the necessity for a change of name in two of our three species of wagtail thrushes, and gives an exhaustive table of synonymy for each species.

NORTH AMERICAN FUR-BEARING ANIMALS. — In the August number of the *NATURALIST* (Vol. ix., p. 505) was printed a circular, prepared by Dr. Elliott Coues, U. S. A., and issued from the Surgeon-General's office, in relation to a work in preparation, to be entitled History of

¹ *A Catalogue of the Birds of the Vicinity of Cincinnati, with Notes.* By FRANK W. LANGDON. 8vo, pp. 18. Salem, Mass., Naturalist's Agency. 1877.

² *The Summer Birds of the Adirondacks in Franklin County, New York.* By THEODORE ROOSEVELDT, JR., and H. D. MINOT. 8vo, pp. 4.

³ Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, vol. xi., pp. 53-58, July, 1877.

⁴ Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, vol. xi., pp. 29-34, April, 1877.

North American Mammals, to be published by the government. We have before us a "specimen fasciculus" of this work, treating of the family *Mustelidæ* or "fur-bearing animals" of North America.¹

In point of completeness and thoroughness of elaboration we know of no similar work at all comparable with it. Its scope, so far as the species treated are concerned, is sufficiently indicated by the accompanying transcript of the title-page. In the present short notice it only remains for us to state that while the technicalities of the subject — embracing exhaustive tables of synonymy and bibliographical references, full and discriminating diagnoses of the higher groups as well as of the several species and varieties, the etymology of the various names applied to the genera and species, including the vernacular of various languages as well as the systematic, and the geographical range of each species — are ably handled. There are also added elaborate and detailed biographies of all the American species treated, with shorter and more technical notices of all of their more closely related affines of other parts of the world. Incidentally are given many interesting statistics of the fur-trade, while what we may term the literary history of each species comes in for a large share of attention, and forms by no means one of the least attractive features of the work. The author has drawn from all trustworthy sources of information and has woven into his chapters, with his well-known skill and gracefulness of style, all that is essential to the subject, — all, we might say, that is worth knowing of the animals treated. With this is blended no small amount of information derived by the author from personal observation in the field, with much other matter hitherto either unpublished or concealed in little-known publications. Such special characteristics of the family as the anal glands, which in one group serve so powerfully as an organ of defense, are treated in detail, while the terrible disease known as *rabies mephitica* or hydrophobia from skunk bite receives the full treatment its importance and peculiar interest demand, a dozen pages being devoted to the history of this fruitful source of rabies among dogs and other domestic animals. As a monograph covering the whole field of the popular and technical phases of the subject, it is simply a model of literary workmanship. As nothing of a general character has appeared in the way of a popular history of the mammals of North America for thirty years, or since the publication

¹ *Fur-Bearing Animals*. A Monograph of North American Mustelidæ, in which an account of the Wolverine, the Martens or Sables, the Ermine, the Mink, and various other kinds of Weasels, several species of Skunks, the Badger, the Land and Sea Otters, and numerous exotic allies of these animals, is contributed to the History of North American Mammals. By ELLIOTT COUES, Captain and Assistant Surgeon United States Army, Secretary and Naturalist of the Survey. Illustrated with sixty figures on twenty plates. Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey of the Territories, F. V. Hayden, United States Geologist. Miscellaneous Publications, No. 8. 8vo. pp. xiv., 348. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1877.

of Audubon and Bachman's great work, — an admirable one for the time but long since rendered antiquated and sadly incomplete through later increase of knowledge, — it is most fortunate that the task of preparing a new history of the subject from the abundant materials now at command has been undertaken by one so thoroughly competent for the task. In the way of unfavorable criticism we have only to add that the plates illustrating the skulls and dentition of the species described are unworthy of the accompanying text. They are referred to as an attempt at delineation by a new process, from which with further experience probably better results may be expected. While the figures are highly useful and fairly expressive, they are artistically harsh and unpleasing. We have as yet evidently no short cut to excellence in the graver's art.

In respect to typography little more could be desired: the type is large and the page open and clear, while careful revision on the part of proof-reader and author is everywhere apparent.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED. — Ninth Annual Report of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, embracing Colorado and Parts of Adjacent Territories; being a Report of Progress of the Exploration for Year 1875. By F. V. Hayden, United States Geologist. Conducted under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1877. 8vo, pp. 827; 70 plates, 7 maps, and 67 wood-cuts.

Ethnography and Philology of the Hidatsa Indians. By Washington Matthews Assistant Surgeon United States Army. Department of the Interior, United States Geological and Geographical Survey, F. V. Hayden, United States Geologist in Charge. Miscellaneous Publications, No. 7. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1877. 8vo, pp. vi., 239.

Brehm's Thierleben. Band ii. Heft 5-7. Leipzig. 1877. New York: B. Westermann & Co. 8vo. 40 cents a Heft.

On the Brain of *Chimera Monstrosa*. By Burt G. Wilder, 1877. 8vo, pp. 32, with a plate. (From the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences.)

Pacific Coast Lepidoptera. No. 17. On the Transformations of *Colias* (*Meganostoma* Reak) *Eurydice*, Bdv. By Henry Edwards. 8vo, pp. 2. (From the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, 1876.)

Pacific Coast Lepidoptera. No. 18. Description of a New Species of *Heterocampa* (Larva and Imago). By Henry Edwards. 8vo, pp. 2. (From the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, October, 1876.)

Pacific Coast Lepidoptera. No. 19. Notes on a Singular Variety of the Larva of *Halesedota Agassizii* Packd. By Henry Edwards. 8vo, pp. 3. (From the Proceedings of the California Academy of Natural Sciences, November, 1876.)

Pacific Coast Lepidoptera. No. 20. Notes on the Case-Bearing Moths (*Psychidæ*), with Notices of Californian Species. By Henry Edwards. 8vo, pp. 4, with a plate. (From the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, November, 1876.)

Pacific Coast Lepidoptera. No. 21. Descriptions of Two New Species of the Genus *Theda*. By Henry Edwards. 8vo, pp. 2. (From the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, December, 1876.)

Pacific Coast Lepidoptera. No. 22. Notes on some Diurnal Lepidoptera, with Descriptions of New Varieties. By Henry Edwards. 8vo, pp. 11. (From the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, December, 1876.)

Pacific Coast Lepidoptera. No. 23. Description of a New Species of *Catocala*,